

SECRET

P. O. Box No. 3600
Washington, 7, D. C.
7 April 1948

Mr. Malcolm A. Frost
Director, Monitoring Service
The British Broadcasting Corporation
Caversham Park, Reading, Berks
England

Dear Malcolm:

At last I have the information upon which to base a reply to your letter of 20 February.

GHI supports your views relative to the desirability of at least an annual examination and adjustment of our joint operation. We agree to the desirability of a meeting this spring with Major General Sir Ian Jacob in the chair for this purpose.

Our present plans are that Colonel White will arrive in London on or about April 11 for the purpose of inspecting our operation at Caversham. He will leave on April 17 for a visit to Cairo and Cyprus, returning to London about May 9, at which time he will be joined by my deputy, [redacted] both the idea that the formal meeting then be held. They both wish to leave London not later than May 17. I hope that the schedule, as proposed above, is satisfactory and that you can arrange for its implementation on your side.

We would be glad to have you accompany Colonel White to the Near East and to that end I am enclosing a letter which you may see vis-a-vis your chief if you so desire.

[redacted] will be accompanied by [redacted] UNK, who will be prepared to discuss any angle which would require a special "understanding." [redacted] has also been indoctrinated but Col. White has not.

I am sorry that this letter has been that it will answer all the questions which w of 20 February.

With kindest personal regards...

Sincerely yours,

25X1

ELS/rn

cc: Central Records
FRTB

P. O. Box 3680
Washington 7, D. C.
7 April 1948

Sir William J. Haley, KCMG
Director-General
The British Broadcasting
Corporation
Broadcasting House
London, W 1, England

SECRET

Dear Sir William:

The approval of the Foreign Broadcasting Information Service project in Cyprus has finally been granted, and we are moving toward a prompt implementation thereof.

Colonel Laurence K. White of our organization will be in London on or about April 11 with orders to proceed shortly thereafter to Cairo and Cyprus. It would be highly acceptable to us were Mr. Malcolm Frost, the Director of the NBC Monitoring Service, to accompany him on this trip.

Colonel White plans to return to London on or about May 9 and, at that time, participate with [redacted] GSB, both of this organization, in formal conferences with Major General Sir Ian Jacob. The purpose of this conference will be to outline a detailed plan of coordination between the Foreign Broadcasting Information Service and the British Broadcasting Corporation monitoring service for worldwide coverage with the minimum duplication and the most efficient use of our combined facilities.

With kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN L. HIBERT
Brigadier General, USA

ELS/ra/nbd

cc: Central Records
FBI

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C O P Y

SECRET

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
Head Office: Broadcasting House, London, W.1
Caversham Park, Reading, Berks.
Telephone: Reading 72742

Reference:
07/MS/MAF

20th February, 1948

25X1
[Redacted]
P.O. Box 3680,
Washington, 7 D.C.

My dear Eddie:

Our overseas Services, including the Monitoring Service and the European Service, have now been merged into one command under Major General Sir Ian Jacob, K.B.E., C.B., who, during the war years, you will remember, was Assistant Military Secretary to the War Cabinet. The post he now occupies is styled Director of Overseas Services. You will recall that last November we agreed in broad principle on the necessity for co-ordinating the work of our two Services. General Jacob, with whom I have discussed this matter fully, supports our view.

Since we met last, I have examined in some detail the problems which might profitably be discussed between us annually or bi-annually. On our side, faced with the necessity of post-war economy, we are attempting to relate the coverage of our service more closely to known and specific consumers' needs. Our consumers can be divided into three main categories:-

- (a) The British Government
- (b) B.B.C. News Services
- (c) Your good selves

In the case of (a), the departments mainly interested are the Foreign Office and the Intelligence Departments of the three Services. We are hoping that the Joint Intelligence Committee, with which you have direct dealings, will in the future be able to co-ordinate the interests of these departments in our material and provide us with necessary guidance. In the case of (b), we have set up an internal committee on which the appropriate B.B.C. departments are represented, to co-ordinate the B.B.C. interests in our material.

So far, our relations with F.B.I.S. have been on the basis of mutual interchange of material, and there has been no consultative machinery to allow for the adjustment of either your coverage or our coverage to the advantage of the other. I do not feel this casual interchange of material

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can adequately meet the interests of either of our organisations. It is clear that, on the basis of present B.B.C. operations, we can only maintain a partial world coverage, and I think you will agree that F.B.I.S. coverage, without the products of the B.B.C. Monitoring Service, would be equally incomplete. We must, in my opinion, regard our two services as inter-dependent. I consider that at our periodical meetings, we should agree those transmissions throughout the world which should be intercepted in our mutual interests, and decide which of our organisations can most efficiently and economically undertake the work of interception. Discussions and decisions on this point should eliminate a great deal of overlapping which now exists between our two services and permit us with the effort saved, to intercept additional traffic which our present resources do not allow. As part of our discussions on this point, we should agree lists of priorities of traffic to meet our requirements. Preparatory to these discussions, F.B.I.S. and B.B.C. should exchange details of all new traffic which develops, in order that we may both discuss with our consumers their possible interest in its interception.

We can also usefully discuss problems of distribution of intercepted material, communications, copyright, security, etc., and, on the more informal plane, we shall, I am sure, give assistance to each other in exchanging our experiences on the variety of administrative and technical problems which we have in common.

25X1 I gather from [] that Colonel White is coming over here in the spring, and I am looking forward very much to meeting him. I hope he will be able to spare sufficient time here to discuss our mutual problems in considerable detail. I would subsequently like to visit Cairo with him, since we were not able to look at this station of yours on our recent visit to Cyprus. I do not know whether Colonel White will be "endocrinated" to discuss with me certain problems which we have in common with "our friends" on both sides of the Atlantic. On this side, certain points have come up recently which require to be resolved, consequent upon the agreement which we have made between our two Services.

I do not know what your personal plans are, but I think it would be helpful if, after White and I have had time to examine our problems in detail, you could come here for a brief visit and attend a meeting with General Jacob in the Chair, and to which we would possibly invite the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee. We would regard this as the first of our formal consultations, and it would pave the way for the next meeting in Washington under C.I.A. Chairmanship.

I am writing to you personally on this matter, firstly because we have already to some extent gone over the ground, and you have some conception of what is in my mind. Secondly, I believe direct, and less formal, communications between C.I.A. and the B.B.C. are more likely to permit a franker exchange of ideas than exchanges through either diplomatic channels or the Joint Staff Mission.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ M.A. Frost

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C O P Y

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Head Office: Broadcasting House, London, W.1

Caversham Park, Reading, Berks.

Telephone: Reading 72742

Reference:
07/MS/MAF

26th February 1948

25X1
C.I.A., Washington.

My dear Eddie,

Many thanks for your letter of 18th February which has crossed mine to you of 23rd February. I am very glad to know that your side of necessity for such consultation is endorsed independently.

While it goes without saying that a visit to Washington presents a great attraction to me, I feel that initial policy discussions of the kind I have in mind would be unprofitable until White has paid a visit both here and to Cairo. If, therefore, it is quite impossible for you to come to London for the first meeting, or there is some very strong desire on your side that the first meeting should be under U.S. auspices, I suggest that I should return to Washington with White following his visit here.

As you know, the question of dollar exchange is acute here and I rather hesitate to ask permission for a visit to U.S. at least until the results of the Marshall Plan are known.

Yours ever,

/s/ M. A. Frost

JMM

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